

waters of our globe, which other predaceous animals cannot come at.

Another tribe of long-legged birds, which Cuvier considers as belonging to the present order, though their habits and *habitat* are altogether different, and which constitute his family of short-winged waders,\* is that to which the Ostrich† and Emu‡ belong; but in these the object of this structure is to fit them not for standing in the water, but for running in the sandy desert; and such is the velocity of the ostrich that it can outstrip the fleetest Arabian courser when pursued.

Other birds are remarkable for the *shortness* and strength of their legs; of this description are the *aquiline* race, which are thus fitted by their Creator for seizing and holding fast any prey which their piercing sight discovers.

There is one, and a very elegant bird, belonging to this order, the secretary-bird,§ the legs of which are so long, that many ornithologists have arranged it with the waders. It is, however, very properly placed amongst the predaceous birds. Its long legs are given it to enable it to pursue the serpents, which form its food. We see, in this instance, a departure from one of the typical characters of its own tribe, and those of another adopted in order to accommodate the animal to the circumstances in which it was the Divine will to place it, and to fit it for the function which it was there to exercise.

Amongst the *Reptiles* there is little diversity as to the relative proportions of the organs we are considering, and their parts; in the *Batrachians*, or frogs and toads, which are mostly leaping and swimming animals, the hind legs are elongated to accommodate them to those kinds of locomotion; and in some of the *Saurians* or lizards, which are

\* Echassiers brevipennes.

† Struthio Camelus.

‡ Casuarius Emeu.

§ Ophiotheres cristatus. Veill.